

ABSTRACT

A pressing step for pressing a bast is provided prior to a step for immersing the bast in an aqueous solution to decompose a gum existing in the bast and bonding bast fibers to each other. The bast fibers and the gum of the bast are mechanically separated from each other, so that an area of contact of the gum existing in the bast and the aqueous solution is increased, thereby promoting decomposition of the gum.